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18 March 1952

MEMORANDUM TO: Mr. P. G. Strong
2430 E Street, N. W.
Washington 25, D. C.

FROM : Karl E. Weber

SUBJECT : Project 63

REFERENCE : TF-0-00315 dated 6 March 1952

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/WR

REVIEWED BY Jack DATE 3/15/51

REVISOR IDS/EXT. DATE
TS ADIR. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☒ RELEASEABLE ☒
RELEASE DENIED
34 OF FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. The flurry of cables preceding the arrival of the twenty-man mission from JIOA apparently achieved the desired result; namely, a little coordination before the conquest of German science was begun. Although Colonel Crabbe had indicated in a cable that he would get in touch with me on 24 February, he did not do so until 6 March when we held a meeting jointly with Nordstrom and others. In the meantime the JIOA group was well on its way to the repetition of previous blunders in the form of several invitations to top German scientists to come to Heidelberg for discussion of contracts.

2. Principal members of the twenty-man group are Lt. Col. P. W. Crabbe (JIOA), Col. Arthur S. Rapp (USAF), and Col. F. S. Perry (N-2). With them are an assortment of lesser military personnel, four U. S. service civilians, and six German Paperclip specialists. The group is armed with a list of Germans to be contacted. The group, or members thereof, will be present in the theater until some time in April.

3. On 6 March the military members of the mission met with Nordstrom, Foster, Biermann, other members of local organizations and myself for a frank discussion of Project 63, its good points and bad points and how to implement it. Nordstrom's concern was for the preservation of good relations with the German scientific community as a practical matter for those of us who must work here as well as the U.S. foreign relations involved in recruitment. My concern was for the prejudicial effect of inept recruitment on relations between Germans and Americans which would affect adversely our intelligence operations. All of us however agreed that an exchange program of some sort is desirable and in this respect we are all in sympathy with the aims of the project.

4. After an initial period of shooting barbs at each other, perhaps containing too sharply pointed criticisms, the meeting

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straightened out and become a useful exchange of ideas which I feel was entirely satisfactory. The local people brought out the need for careful consideration on a case-by-case basis of each individual before making an approach. He pointed out for example that the recruitment list contains names of people too old, too rich, too busy and too thoroughly disgruntled with past experience with Americans to justify a renewed approach. We also pointed out the impropriety of making an open-ended contract with a man who in this community occupies a position comparable to that of the leaders of science in the U. S. Negotiations for a specific job at a specific place with adequate description of conditions and salary are the only proper approach when dealing with scientists of high caliber. This point appeared to be accepted by the mission.

5. I raised the question of propriety in connection with the use of ex-Germans as recruiters having in mind resurgent German nationalism and the possible attitude among present-day Germans that the Paperclippers are in effect traitors. The mission did not seem to be impressed with this consideration which is understandable since they are primarily salesmen who are not sensitive to more subtle dangers. The mission apparently feels that the good done by ex-Germans in explaining to prospective candidates on the basis of first-hand experience outweighs the harm which may result from the "traitor" concept. I did not press the point at length.

6. The important point which evolved from the discussion is that in the future the recruiters promise to consult Nordstrom and myself on all cases so that foreign relations and intelligence interests can be provided for adequately. Nordstrom is furthermore making certain services available to the group in furnishing background on individuals, making interviews and introductions, and laying out the schedule of contacts. Local advice and consultation were something we were anxious to have incorporated into the implementation of the project. Nordstrom agreed to write letters to the leaders of German science as well as to his British and French counterparts which will in effect take them in a limited way into confidence on the scope of the project.

7. If performance lives up to promises, I feel that much has been done to remove the friction built up between military and civilian groups responsible for, or at least concerned with, this project. The storm we kicked up by our cables seems to have had the desired result of forcing the military into consulting with us before proceeding on a project the effects of which were so poorly understood by them. Time will tell how well we succeeded but there is at least some cause for hope.

8. Incidentally after the meeting Berry who seems rather alert and Grabbe who is largely salesman told Nordstrom and me that we had been regarded as saboteurs and obstructionists prior to the meeting. Afterward they said they felt we had been helpful and well-intentioned, even though our motives had been misunderstood for a long time. The

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sed part is that such a meeting could have been held a year ago when
we also set up a cipher. The slow awakening seems to be characteristic
of the breed.

KARL H. WEBER

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